

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace paragraph [012] beginning on page 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In some embodiments, measuring the at least one characteristic comprises measuring at least one of pressure, volume, blood flow velocity, blood oxygen concentration, carbon dioxide concentration, wall stress, wall thickness, force, electric charge, electric current and electric conductivity. **For instance, in certain embodiments, the measuring of at least one characteristic comprises measuring at least one blood oxygen concentration in a patient having a shunt.** Such characteristics may be measured in any part of the heart, such as one or more chambers and/or one or more walls of the heart, or in blood vessels in and around the heart or adjacent to the heart.